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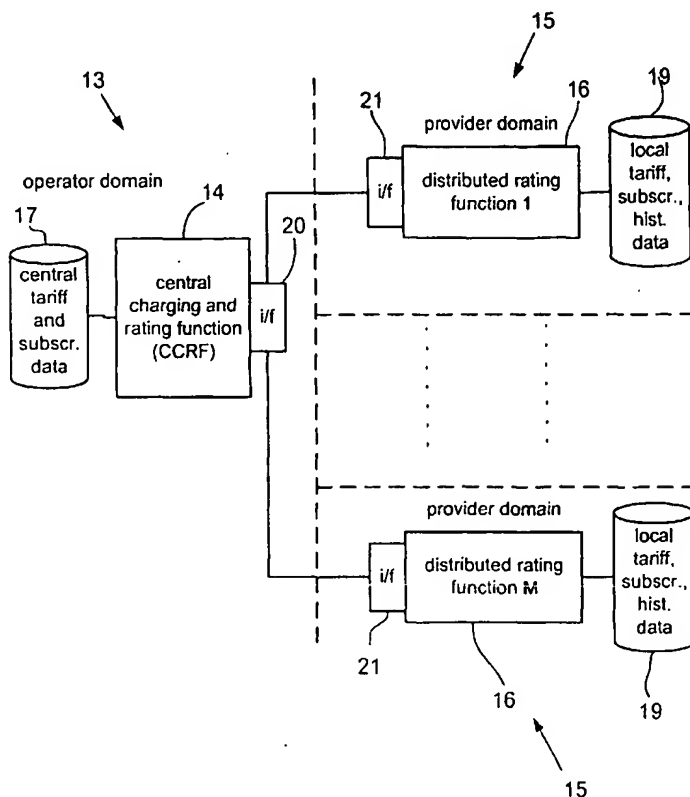
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND DISTRIBUTED RATING SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING RATING DATA IN A CHARGING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and distributed rating system for determining rating data for services and subscribers in a communications network, wherein data associated with a service or subscriber is accessed (101), a rating request, including the accessed data is sent (103) to a distributed rating means (16, 19, 21) for distributed rating. Rating data are accessed and determined for the service or subscriber based on distributed data (19) protected against access from central rating means (14, 17, 20) and on received service data for transmission to the central rating means (14, 17, 20). Resulting rating data are received in the central rating means (14, 17, 20) and a rating value is determined for charging a subscriber based on the received rating data.